

'Hot house' owner rips feds

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LANSDOWNE — The owner of a radioactively contaminated house at 133 Austin Ave. is facing foreclosure because of lost rent on the property, according to a letter from his attorney to the Environmental Protection Agency.

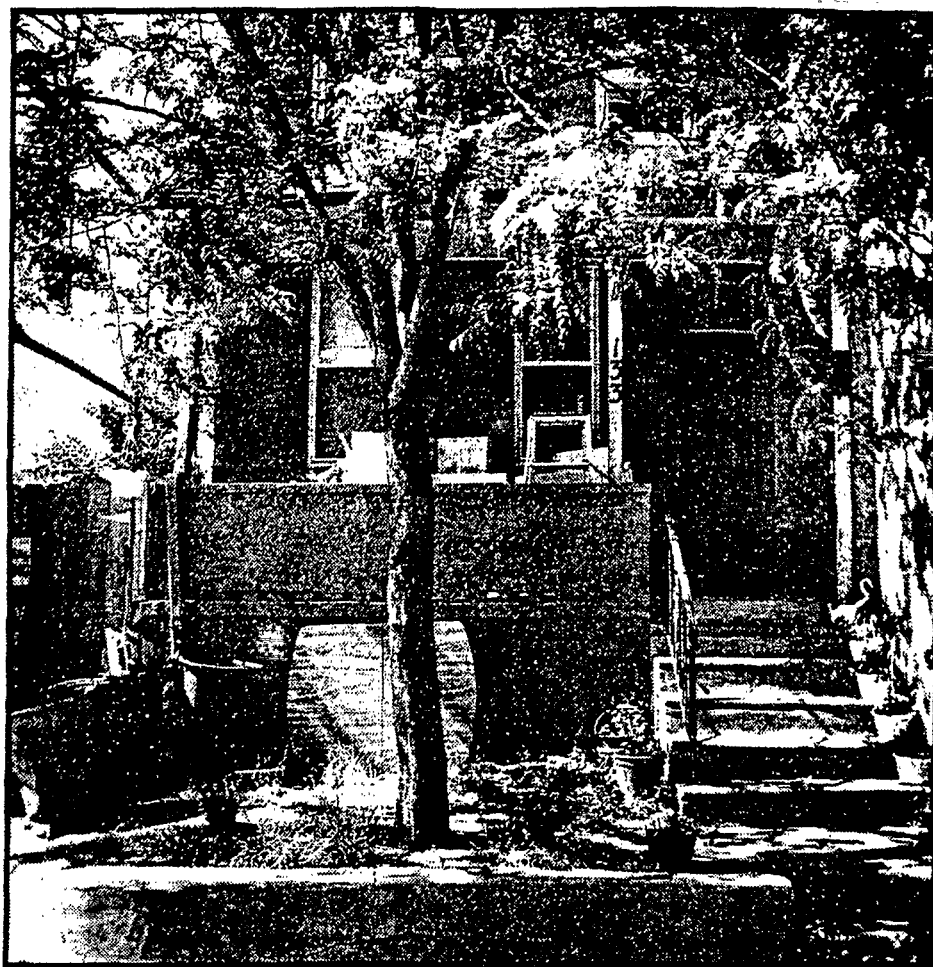
William Walls lost \$794 a month in rent from two tenants in the home, whom the EPA officials moved out in June, after high levels of radiation were discovered.

The EPA didn't tell Walls that the two families, including a pregnant woman, would be moved, according to his attorney's letter.

"Because my client is a salaried individual of limited means, to whom the above income was absolutely vital, he has now failed to pay the mortgage due on the property in the amount of \$350 per month since June, 1991," wrote Broomall attorney Peter A. DeLiberty, in an Oct. 17 letter to the EPA on Walls' behalf.

DeLiberty threatened to file a federal lawsuit if the situation is not resolved.

EPA spokeswoman Leann Nurse said attorneys for the agency are discussing the situation with DeLiberty.



RADIOACTIVE HOUSE AT 133 AUSTIN AVE. IN LANSDOWNE.

State Rep. Nick Micozzie (R-163) said he became involved in Walls' plight when they met at a candidates night several months ago.

"His attorney told me the EPA regulations don't compensate owners properly, that it's a long drawn out process," Micozzie said.

"I was tried to help by suggesting that the borough purchase the ground with state money," said Micozzie. "I was told that Lansdowne would be dragged into

litigation over the property."

Nurse said yesterday that agency officials are bringing a special scanner van from Las Vegas, Nev. later this week to help locate the missing byproducts of radium used at the warehouse next to 133 Austin Ave.

"It's bound to cause a stir in the area," said Nurse. "We're going to cover a one-mile radius around the site in Yeadon, Upper Darby and Lansdowne."

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